

Kelly Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board Meeting
September 9, 1997 6:00 p.m.
Dwight Middle School

Members/Alternates present:

Ms. Annalisa Peace, RAB Community Co-Chair	Mr. Edward Riojas, Jr., RAB Base Co-Chair
Mr. Edward Weinstein	Mrs. Yolanda Johnson
Dr. Gene Lené	Mr. Chuck Ahern (alt.)
Mr. Gary Beyer	Mr. Carl Mixon
Ms. Camille Hueni	Mr. Armando Quintanilla
Mr. George Rice	Mr. Jim Clark (Mr. Sanchez's alt.)
Mr. Paul Roberson	Mr. Allan Hagelthorn
Mr. Paul Person	Mr. John A. Jacobi
Mr. Sam Murrah	Mr. Damian Sandoval
Mr. Willie Jones, Jr.	Mrs. Dominga Adames
Mr. Larry Hoffman	

Members Absent Without Alternate:

Mr. Juan Solis, Sr.	Mr. Grady Floyd
Mr. Nicolas Rodriguez, Jr.	

Item I: Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m., Mr. Edward Riojas, Jr., RAB Base Co-Chair conducting.

Item II: Community Statements

Mr. Ray Martinez, a resident of San Antonio, said he has concerns about the cleanup technologies presented at the last InfoFair (August 13, 1997). He said the plans proposed to clean up contaminated soil were only a temporary fix and not a complete solution. He said he represents a company that sells a cleanup technology that would be a complete fix to the problem without any air emissions or waste products. He said he would be willing to provide the RAB with information about the technology.

Mr. Paul Person, Union Pacific Railroad, said he has used this technology. He said it would not be an effective technology to clean up Kelly AFB's contamination. He said the technology is not effective beyond a depth of 10 feet. Soil contamination at Kelly is much deeper in many places. He said the technology is also dangerous because it uses hydrogen peroxide, which is a highly toxic chemical.

Mr. Riojas asked Mr. Martinez to provide the information to the Technical Subcommittee for review.

Item III: Administrative Topics

- A. Mr. Riojas read aloud the statement concerning the purpose of the RAB.
- B. The RAB members introduced themselves.

Item IV: Discussion/Approval of Minutes

- A. Ms. Annalisa Peace asked that the Minutes be changed to show that the city grants building permits. She also asked that her comments be clarified on the FOIA issue to reflect the question “How are we supposed to request information if we don’t know that the information exists?”
- B. Mr. John Jacobi noted the provided copies did not have the attachments referenced at the end of the minutes. It was clarified that members had received the attachments at the last meeting.
- C. The Minutes were approved with the following amendments: (1) Item IV third paragraph, to read City of San Antonio instead of San Antonio Housing Authority, (2) Item IX, Section B first paragraph page six, to read “How can the public request information when they don’t know it exists?”, (3) add statement to Attachments “Provided to members at the last meeting.”

Item V: Status of Kelly AFB Cleanup Actions

- A. Mr. William Ryan, Kelly AFB, presented an update of the Installation Restoration Program (IRP).
 - 1. Mr. Riojas read a statement regarding the pending litigation brought against the Air Force by Mr. Armando Quintanilla. He said Air Force representatives may not be allowed to answer some questions related to the litigation.
 - 2. Mr. Ryan’s presentation was to bring new members up-to-date and refresh other members' memories on the base’s cleanup actions. He described remedial investigations, feasibility studies, and the Basewide Remedial Assessment Plan. He provided maps showing test locations, plume locations, water flow contours, and other pertinent information.
 - 3. Mr. Ryan stressed that all of the information and more was available at the repositories in the City Library and the Kelly AFB library. (See attached)
- B. Questions:
 - 1. Mr. Damian Sandoval asked for a synopsis of some of the contaminants as he describes the zones. Mr. Ryan agreed to do so.

2. Mr. Quintanilla asked if the maps showed on-site and off-site areas and how many acres off base are contaminated from Zone 3. Mr. Ryan said yes the maps did show on-site and off-site areas, but he did not have the acreage information with him.
3. Mr. George Rice asked Mr. Ryan if he believed the contamination originated at Kelly. Mr. Ryan said that some of the contamination originated at Kelly. Mr. Rice asked if this means the Air Force believes that some of the contamination is not from Kelly. Mr. Ryan said it is possible that some of the contamination did not originate at Kelly.
4. Mr. John Jacobi asked what manufacturing processes used vinyl chloride. Mr. Ryan said that vinyl chloride is a degradation product of other chlorinated solvents, such as trichloroethene (TCE) or perchloroethylene (PCE).
5. Mr. Rice inquired about the current status of the plume and whether it is growing or staying the same. Mr. Ryan said the latest information shows a larger plume than shown in the 1996 Basewide Remedial Assessment (BRA). He said this is due to having a better understanding of the plume and more wells to define the extent of the plume.
6. Mr. Paul Roberson asked if the larger appearance of the plume was due to a better definition of the plume, because it is actually growing, or a combination of the factors. Mr. Ryan said it is a combination of those two factors.
7. Mr. Damian Sandoval asked if any attenuation of the plume has been observed. Mr. Ryan said yes, there are recent trends in degradation of chlorinated solvents and petroleum hydrocarbons.
8. A discussion regarding the extent of the investigation followed. Mr. Roberson said he was concerned that the Air Force was not “casting its net” wide enough to truly know the extent of the plume. He suggested that another approach might be to start far away and work back toward the base. Both Ms. Camille Hueni, and Mr. Gary Beyer said this approach is not a good idea because it is difficult to know the source of the contamination. “Chasing the plume” is the accepted method of defining a plume because it is easier to determine groundwater flow paths. Mr. Ryan said the base can sufficiently define most of the plumes with existing information. However, there are some areas where they are still investigating.
9. Mr. Quintanilla expressed concern that the City of San Antonio will not have a permit to remove contaminated soil when they begin constructing the stormwater culvert in the Quintana Road area. Mr. Beyer said no permit was required. All contaminated soil will be taken to Kelly AFB for disposal. Kelly is in the process of getting a Post Closure Care permit. Mr. Quintanilla said that removing the soil is essentially a cleanup and the city should be required to have a permit. He said there is no accountability.

10. Mr. Sandoval asked who notifies people of contamination. Mr. Beyer said the TNRCC notifies the local county health officials, who are responsible for notifying the people. Mr. Quintanilla said this is not being done. He asked that a report on who is responsible for notifying the public and what is done be presented at the next RAB meeting.
11. Mr. Rice said some wells showed levels of contamination at the drinking water standard; however, these wells were not sampled in the 1996 BRA. He asked why not. Mr. Ryan said nearby wells were sampled and the wells in question will be sampled in the 1997 BRA.
12. Mr. Ryan said regarding wells 23, 24 and 18, since these wells were not installed as part of the IRP, the results were not reported in any public document. The sample results do not show a threat to health or the environment, nor do they change the remedial action selected. However, he said the wells will be sampled in future sampling and the results will be reported.
13. Mr. Rice asked if the Air Force has any data that has not been released? Hillary Naab, Kelly AFB Legal Office, said Mr. Rice has formally presented this question as part of the lawsuit. She said as the question is presented, it is too broad to answer. She said the question must be narrowed for the base to respond.
14. Mr. Roberson made a motion that the RAB recommend to the Air Force they share all data collected after it had been reviewed, QA'd and the data should come with all necessary qualifications.
 - a. Motion passed
15. Mr. Rice suggested the RAB send a letter to General Childress asking Kelly AFB to release all environmental data, after all necessary reviews and qualifications. Mr. Riojas said this is how it will be done.

Item VI: 1996 Basewide Remedial Assessment

- A. Mr. Beyer presented the TNRCC's role in base cleanup. (See attached slides)
- B. Mr. Beyer stated that TNRCC knows that there are other sources of contamination other than Kelly, but these sources have not yet been identified. Ms. Hueni said EPA, TNRCC and the Air Force are just now beginning to investigate other sources of contamination. There are many potential industrial sources both past and present in the area. These will be investigated.
 1. He also pointed out that right now there was no immediate threat to public health from contaminated soil and groundwater from Kelly AFB.

C. Ms. Hueni gave a presentation regarding EPA's role in the IRP process. (See attached slides)

D. Questions

1. Mr. Quintanilla asked what water standards are applied to the groundwater? Mr. Beyer stated they are same ones used for water from the Edwards Aquifer.
2. Mr. Sandoval asked what cleanup standards will be used for chemicals that currently have no drinking standard. Mr. Beyer said the Texas Risk Reduction Rule has standards set for those chemicals. These standards are based on a 1 in 1 million risk for carcinogens and a hazard index of 1 for non-carcinogens.
3. Mr. Sam Murrah was concerned about other sources of contamination. Mr. Beyer said they know there are other source and TNRCC needs to address them. Mr. Murrah also expressed concern that air quality was not given the same attention as soil and groundwater. Ms. Hueni said the focus is mainly on soil and groundwater, but if air is considered to be a problem, it will also be addressed.
4. Referring to the stormwater culvert project, Mr. Quintanilla asked who determines when the contaminated soil excavated during the construction is clean. Mr. Beyer said that TNRCC and the San Antonio city officials are working together on the issue. Mr. Quintanilla reaffirmed his concern that the absence of a permit leaves no one accountable.
5. Mr. Sandoval asked if the cleanup of soil is limited to the construction area. He was told by Mr. Beyer and Ms. Hueni that soil affected by construction would be removed and cleaned. Other contaminated soil was part of the groundwater cleanup efforts.
6. Mr. Rice asked Ms. Hueni to explain the TNRCC's and EPA's roles as overseers. Ms. Hueni said EPA's role is to give concurrence on any federal property transfers. TNRCC has been delegated the responsibility to administer the environmental cleanup programs in the state of Texas. EPA provides support to TNRCC and gives final concurrence.
7. Mr. Quintanilla requested the EPA and TNRCC come talk to neighborhood groups regarding the cleanup. Ms. Hueni said that one of their responsibilities as RAB members, is to take the information given at RAB meetings back to the neighborhoods.
8. Mr. Larry Hoffmann asked Mr. David Newman, City of San Antonio, if an Environmental Impact Statement and notification are required for this project. Mr. Newman said he believed it was.
9. Mr. Riojas said city officials will be invited to present more information regarding the stormwater culvert project at the next RAB meeting.

E. Ms. Hueni and Mr. Beyer presented their review of the BRA. (See attached slides) Their conclusion is that the contamination at Kelly AFB poses no threat to human health or the environment.

F. Questions

1. Mr. Quintanilla asked Mr. Riojas if the RAB can be provided the budgetary information for the groundwater sampling program. Mr. Riojas said he would look into it.
2. Regarding the plume at Zone 4 (East Kelly), Mr. Rice asked Ms. Hueni if she believed the southernmost extent of the plume had been adequately defined. Ms. Hueni said she still needs more information. She said this is a work-in-progress and more information will be collected in the future that will answer more questions.
3. Mr. Sandoval asked Kelly to provide the RAB with a table detailing cleanup standards for groundwater chemicals of concern. This table would include applicable drinking water standards, secondary drinking water standards, and risk-based standards.
 - a. The request was so moved and passed by the RAB. Mr. Beyer added that this table may already exist in the Compliance Plan.

Break

A short break was taken.

Item VII: Subcommittee Reports

A. Administrative Subcommittee

1. Ms. Annalisa Peace reported on the meeting of the June Administrative Subcommittee. The committee proposed several administrative changes to the RAB. Ms. Peace presented them to the RAB for approval.
 - a. She pointed out that Item one had already been approved. (See attached)
 - b. After some discussion, it was agreed Item 2 (regarding the agenda) should be revised and voted on at a later date.
 - c. Mr. Allan Hagelthorn suggested changing the wording of Item 5 to add the word “less” so it would read “whether different, *less*, or additional services.” His suggestion was accepted.
2. Regarding the committee’s recommendation of a professional facilitator, Mr. Riojas said since some RAB members had complained that the RAB meetings cost too much, they should consider that adding a facilitator will also add to the cost of the meeting.

3. Mr. Quintanilla said a facilitator was provided before. The person was not from here and could not communicate in Spanish. He suggested a future facilitator be bilingual.
4. The recommendations as amended, except Item 2, were approved by the RAB.

B. Technical Subcommittee Report

1. Representatives from CH2M Hill gave a presentation on Zone 2 groundwater recovery systems that was presented at the June 1997 Technical Subcommittee meeting. (See attached slides)
2. Questions
 - a. Mr. Sandoval asked three questions:
 - (1) Is there was a relationship between the pathlines and the amount of recovery? Mr. James Dywer, CH2M Hill, told him no, the pathlines only indicate where a particle of water will go.
 - (2) What method did you use in model? Mr. Dywer said they used all the data and ran a simulation of the flow and compared it to observed mapping.
 - (3) Did you verify your model with real time data? Mr. Dwyer said he would show him what they did later.
3. Mr. Rice presented the August 1997 Technical Subcommittee Report.
 - a. He reported that at the Technical Subcommittee Meeting, the committee voted to recommend to the entire RAB to have him removed as chairman.
 - (1) Ms. Peace asked him if he was receiving compensation for working on Mr. Quintanilla's lawsuit or if he would get any money if the lawsuit was won? Mr. Rice answered no, just reimbursement for certain expenses.
 - b. The issue of conflict of interest was brought up. Mrs. Mary Kelly, Kelly AFB Legal Office, was recognized to address the issue. She said it is inappropriate for people on the RAB to benefit financially from RAB actions. As long as RAB members don't vote on issues that could be a conflict of interest, they may continue to serve. In the case of a committee chairman it was up to the RAB.
4. The RAB voted on the Technical Subcommittee's recommendation to have Mr. Rice removed as chairman. The recommendation passed 13-2. Mr. Quintanilla abstained.
5. The RAB recommended changes to the Technical Subcommittee. The following recommendations were proposed and subsequently adopted:

- a. Reduce the size of the committee to eight technical experts, selected by the co-chairs.
 - b. Hold meetings the same day as the RAB, if possible.
 - c. All members may attend.
 - d. Chairman reports to the RAB. A minority opinion report may be given.
 - e. Committee members will select a new chair.
6. Mr. Riojas asked for a show of hands of those who would like to be on the redefined Technical Subcommittee. The following members volunteered and were selected: Ms. Hueni, Mr. Beyer, Mr. Sandoval, Mr. Rice, Mr. Person, Mr. Hagelthorn, Dr. Gene Lené, and Mr. Hoffmann.

Item VIII: Old Business

- A. Presentation by Mr. Rice addressed two concerns he has with the Air Force's program.
1. The first dealt with the Air Force's withholding data. Mr. Rice said Mr. Ryan's presentation has sufficiently answered his concerns. He said as long as the Air Force will agree to turn over all releasable data, he will be satisfied.
 2. The second concern was the Air Force denying responsibility for much of the Zone 3 groundwater plume, according to Mr. Rice. Referring to court documents filed as part of Mr. Quintanilla's lawsuit, he said an Air Force expert witness testified in federal court that the Air Force is only responsible for the plume to about 300 feet from the base boundary. According to Mr. Rice, the witness said the Air Force is not responsible for groundwater contamination beyond 300 feet.
 3. Questions and Comments
 - a. Ms. Hueni said she did not believe this was the Air Force's position. According to the law, the Air Force is responsible for cleaning it up. She said she read the document and it was not clear to her that that is the Air Force's position. She asked the Air Force to go on record with their position.
 - b. Mr. Rice said that if this is not the Air Force's position, then what is it? Who is responsible for cleanup?
 - c. Mr. Byron Cotton, Kelly AFB Legal Office, said he would like to see the documents in question. He also said that the Air Force would not engage in a discussion about Mr. Quintanilla's pending lawsuit in this forum.
 - d. Mr. Roberson said before we can understand what the answer given in federal court means, we must know what the question is. He said what Mr. Rice said was unclear to him.

- e. Mr. Sandoval said that the whole discussion was irrelevant to some degree, because the TNRCC and EPA will ultimately decide who is responsible for cleanup.
- f. Mr. Beyer said it is possible that some of the off-base contamination may come from sources other than Kelly.

B. RAB Support Budget

Mr. Riojas passed out information regarding the cost of RAB meetings. The information was what the base had provide to San Antonio Express-News Columnist Roddy Stinson.

Item IX: Community Comments

No members of the public were present to make any comments.

Item X: Next RAB Meeting

A. The Board discussed the date for the next meeting.

- 1. Ms. Peace and Mr. Quintanilla asked that meetings be held more frequently. Mr. Quintanilla suggested holding the next meeting in six weeks. Mr. Sandoval said there seems to be a lot of issues coming up that need to be discussed and suggested a meeting sooner than December 2, 1997.
- 2. Ms. Hueni asked for a longer interval so they can review important documents. Mr. Sandoval agreed that this was important. He asked for a list of documents currently being reviewed, so the Technical Subcommittee can prioritize its reviews.

B. The RAB agreed by a vote of 11 to 6 to meet again Tuesday, December 2, 1997, at 6:00 p.m.

C. Agenda/Action Items

1. Agenda Items

- a. Notification process for people in areas of contamination and those who may be in the path.
- b. Can the RAB transcripts be placed in the Repository.
- c. Stormwater Culvert Project presentation.

2. Action Items

- a. How many acres off base are contaminated?

- b. Public Library Repository Information for all RAB members.
- c. Letter to General Childress from RAB on data sharing.
- d. Listing of local industrial businesses.
- e. 1997 Groundwater sampling budget.
- f. Technical memorandum identifying groundwater cleanup standards.
- g. Prioritized list of documents in the review process.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Motions/Resolutions

A. Motions

1. Motion was made to approve the minutes as amended.
 - a. Approved by voice vote.
2. Motion was made to recommend to the Air Force that they share all data collected, after proper quality control, review, and with any necessary qualifications.
 - a. Approved by a show of hands -- "almost unanimous."
3. Motion was made to recommend Kelly AFB combine and develop a technical memorandum that will identify all cleanup standards that Kelly is using for groundwater cleanup. This table should identify the chemicals of concern for Kelly. It should present the MCL (maximum contaminant level), secondary MCL, or secondary risk standard calculation, and other criteria used to determine cleanup standards for ground water.
 - a. Approved by a show of hands. No opposed responses.
4. Motion was made to accept the Rules Subcommittee's recommendations as amended and without Item 2. (See attachment)
 - a. Approved by a show of hands. No opposed responses.
5. Motion was made to accept the Technical Subcommittee's recommendation to remove Mr. Rice as the Committees Chairman.
 - a. Approved by show of hands, 13 to 2. Mr. Quintanilla abstained.

6. Motion was made to reform the Technical Subcommittee as recommended and amended. (See minutes Item VII, B5.)
 - a. Approved by a show of hands.

Attachments (Provided at the meeting to all RAB members.)

1. IRP Update Briefing Slides
2. 1996 Basewide Remedial Assessment Briefing Slides.
3. Zone 2 Groundwater Recovery system Briefing Slides
4. Letter to Mr. Stinson from Mr. Riojas.
5. Memorandum for Information: Data from Monitoring Wells .
6. Mr. Sandoval's Letter to RABCo-Chairs.
7. Rules Subcommittee Recommendations.